

**WASHINGTON NOTES**

**Civil Service Commission is Not Consistent in Marking.**

**WRONG ANSWERS ACCEPTED**

**Trouble Between Fairbanks and New Chairman of Republican National Committee—Three Members of House Soon in the Senate.**

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 18.

Among the recent Government publications using the abbreviated form of spelling is one issued by the Civil Service Commission giving instructions to those who desire to undergo examinations. It will be noticed among the rules is one that for every word misspelled a demerit of five points will be charged. The Commission uses the new, the applicant uses the old—spells through with all its letters, will he be marked down? To be on the safe side it will be well to spell it both ways. There have been many funny things in Civil Service Examinations. A few years ago an examination was being held by the local board in one of the cities of the Middle West. In one of the dictations the word "separate" occurred three times. Nine applicants were taking the examination, six of them spelled it "separate," three "seperate," and the three were given a correct score while the six were marked down. At the same examination one of the questions propounded was "Name the two rivers that form the principal boundaries of West Virginia." Only three attempted to answer it, and no two of the three gave the same answer. One of them was right, but he was marked incorrect, while the other two who had given two entirely different answers were credited as being correct.

There is a stew on the fire in the G. O. P. Mr. Cortelyou has at last proved the truth of the many rumors that have been floating about for two years or more that he was about to resign the Chairmanship of the Republican National Committee, and has actually given to the public the formal notice of his withdrawal from that position. This has started the pot to boiling. Captain Harry S. New, of Indiana, is the vice-Chairman, and under all ordinary rules is entitled to step into the shoes cast off by Mr. Cortelyou and wear them until the Committee meets and selects a chairman itself. It is that accession of Captain New that brings on the trouble. Among the thousand and one rumors that have been floating around is one that Mr. New is decidedly hostile to the aspirations of Vice President Fairbanks, and that the friends of the latter are desirous of preventing New from acting even temporarily as chairman. If Mr. New has repeatedly declared that if Mr. Fairbanks decides to let his name go before the convention he will have the unanimous and enthusiastic support of the entire Indiana delegation with that of the Hoosier contingent that is always found at a National Con-

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tion. Notwithstanding that emphatic statement of Mr. New, still some of those who would be wise, contend that

it is through the influence of the friends of Mr. Fairbanks that the opposition to Mr. New as chairman is stirred up.

Three members of the House have been promoted to the Senate in the past few days. It is true that they will not take their seats for some time yet, two of them not until March 4th, but as they have all been endorsed by a caucus of the majority of the legislature in each instance, their election is assured. Everyone is pleased with the selection of William Alden Smith to succeed General Alger. Mr. Smith began his service in Congress with the 54th Congress and is now serving his sixth term. The last time there was a contest Smith received thirty thousand and for the Democratic candidate, whose name was also Smith. The last time the Democrats did not think it worth while to put up an opposing candidate so Mr. Smith was unanimously elected. He is forty-six years old and at present his only committee assignment is on the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

Scarcely less popular with his associates is Representative Curtis of Kansas who will succeed Senator Benson, who was appointed to the vacancy left by the resignation of Senator Burton. Curtis has Indian blood in his veins and has been a leading member of the Committee on Indian affairs. He has also served a long time in Congress, having been originally elected to the 53rd Congress. The youngest man of the three is Representative Dixon, Representative-at-Large from Montana, who will succeed Senator Clark. He was born in 1867 and will be forty years old next July. He is serving his second term in Congress. It is

said that Representative Dixon has been recognized by the Speaker for the purpose of calling up bills more times than any other Representative during his term of service.

Certain Democrats who are not pleased with the Committee assignments dished out to them by Representative Williams of Mississippi, propose to oust him from the leadership of the Minority next session. They have selected Representative Clark of Missouri to turn the trick, but Clark is not greatly interested in the proposition. Representative Williams is by far the ablest leader in the minority has had in the past ten years. As the Republicans have had about one hundred and thirty majority, Mr. Williams has been unable to accomplish much as leader of the minority, but he has done the best he could. He will probably be elected to succeed Senator Money, but that does not take place for some time yet he will remain in the House for several years. Behind the disaffection is the fact that Representative Williams favors Bryan and has always been opposed to Hearst. Consequently Hearst has marked him for slaughter.

Many members of Congress in times gone by have apparently acted upon the theory that the District of Columbia was created primarily for experimental purposes and that this was the proper place to exploit their fads. The latest proposition which is attracting local attention is that of a member of Congress named Webber, from Ohio. Mr. Webber wants to have prohibition in the District of Columbia. He told the District W. C. T. U. when he appeared before them the other day that his bill to establish prohibition in the

District had a good change of being passed. Where he got his idea no one knows.

Several new features will distinguish the collection and publication of figures for 1906, now under way. The figures for the production of lumber were withheld last year until returns had been received from every State. This year the production of each State will be announced as soon as the returns are in. The failure of the manufacturers of a single State to furnish the information promptly will therefore delay the publication of results for that state only. The total production of the United States will be completed when all State reports are complete.

The lines upon which inquiry will be made are practically identical with those last year, covering lumber, lath and shingles, pulpwood, railroad ties, tan bark, veneer, wood distillation, and coopersage. A single addition has been made in an inquiry as to the consumption of telegraph and telephone poles.

The Service believes that the statistics for 1906 will be more complete and more promptly obtained than those gathered last year. If so, their practical value to wood producers will be greatly increased. Success depends very largely upon the ready cooperation of manufacturers throughout the country.

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